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Employment Security Quickly Delivers Temporary Unemployment Benefits

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Employment Security Department began mailing checks last week to claimants who benefit from President Bush’s decision Jan. 8 to approve legislation that extends temporary unemployment benefits to jobless workers nationwide.

The bill approved by Congress and the President resumes the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) benefits, which provides additional federally funded benefits to claimants whose regular state unemployment benefits run out.

“Within hours after the legislation was approved, Employment Security began processing TEUC payments for the approximately 1,300 claimants who lost all benefits when the federal program lapsed December 28,” said Jerry Iyall, of the agency’s Unemployment Insurance Division. “We recognize that these benefits are crucial for laid-off workers who rely heavily on unemployment benefits to pay for basic necessities until they are able to find another job.”

Employment Security is also swiftly working to restore TEUC benefits to about 40,000 claimants who were switched to other benefit programs after Dec. 28. They will be automatically transitioned back to TEUC without a break in payment to collect the remainder of the benefits they were eligible for, Iyall said.

Between Thursday and Sunday, the department issued 22,437 checks to TEUC recipients.

The state’s WorkSource centers provide resources to help people in their search for work. For locations and a searchable job database, see the WorkSource Web site at <http://go2worksource.com>.

For more information about TEUC benefits, visit <http://go2ui.com>.

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News Media: More information about unemployment benefits is available on Employment Security’s Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/esd/AgencyInfo/news.html> and at <http://go2ui.com>.